

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Militant activities from Religious Places in J and K

†1862. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists are carrying out their activities using religious places as a shelter, specially Mosques in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents whereby militant activities have been done by terrorists using religious places as a shelter; and

(c) whether Government have taken social measures other than administrative measures, so that the use of religious places by the terrorists can be stopped; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Of late there has been incidents of terrorists taking shelter in religious places. The details of such incidents in last two months are as under:—

- (i) On May 30, 2001, a group of terrorists took shelter in a mosque at Kherwar, Shopian (Pulwama) Security Forces cordoned the Mosque. In the exchange of fire, 2 Security force personnel were killed and 4 others injured.
- (ii) On June 11, 2001, an encounter took place between a group of LeT terrorists who had taken shelter in a Mosque in Shangus village of Anantnag District, in which 6 LeT terrorists were killed.
- (iii) On June 20, 2001, SF killed one terrorist at Milyal Mosque in Kupwara Sector.
- (iv) On July 30, 2001, the SFs killed 3 terrorists taking shelter in a mosque, Goigam, Baramulla.
- (c) Security forces have the latitude to deal with emerging

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

situations based on the ground level exigencies of each particular case and to plan their operations in such a way that minimum possible damage to religious structures takes place without compromising the objectives of the operation. The State Government has informed that appropriate measures are being undertaken to counter all of strategies of the terrorists.

Conspiracy to Explode Secretariat in Srinagar during Indo-Pak Summit

†1863. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists had hatched a conspiracy to explode the Secretariat in Srinagar during Indo-Pak Summit;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to make any special scheme to curb such acts of the terrorists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, how Government wants to curb it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. On 14th June 2001, a major tragedy was averted when IED material comprising 2 IEDs, 1 IED circuit, 1 V2 meter long detonator wire, 1kg explosive and a remote control device was recovered by Special Ops Group J and K Police, kept in auto rickshaw near Broad View Hotel adjacent to new Secretariat in Srinagar and defused. Case FIR No. 66/2001 u/s 3/4 Indian Explosive Act was registered by P.S. Shahidganj, Srinagar.

(b) and (c) To contain terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, *inter alia*, strengthening border management, pro-active action against terrorists in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.